

Education for ARNG FA Officers and NCOs

By COL Robert W. Roshell
and LTC Lawrence M. Terranova,
both FA

The overarching focus of the Deputy Assistant Commandant-Army National Guard (ARNG) office at the Fires Center of Excellence (CoE) and US Army Field Artillery School (USAFAS), Fort Sill, Oklahoma, is to support ARNG Soldiers and the FA Campaign Plan (FACP) published as a draft on the Fires Knowledge Network on 1 September 2008, and released 1 February 2009. The FACP's four lines of effort (LOEs) address the education of the FA officer and NCO: 1) Sustain Soldiers, Leaders and Families; 2) Win in the Current Fight; 3) Reset; and 4) Transformation.

To support those four LOEs, there are 20 campaign objectives, 64 supporting objectives and 149 tasks in this living, breathing document—all with the end state of providing adaptive, resilient and indispensable FA formations, both active duty and the Reserve Components (RC).

In the FACP, Major General (MG) Peter M. Vangiel, the Chief of the Field Artillery, defined the new mission of the Field Artillery as, "The mission of the FA is to integrate and deliver lethal and nonlethal fires to enable joint and maneuver commanders to dominate their operational environment across the spectrum of operations."

The complexity of integrating lethal and nonlethal fires in the current or future operating environment is a great challenge to ARNG Redleg formations. However, never before has the ARNG FA been able to bring more to the fight and be relevant. The ARNG FA consists of seven fires brigades and 59 FA battalions. The force structure consists of more than 21,000 ARNG Field Artillerymen which make up more than 50



Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 13F Fire Support Specialist Soldiers identify and locate targets during a live-fire exercise conducted by the 1st Battalion, 640th Regiment (FA), Utah ARNG Regional Training Institute (RTI), at Command Post Williams, Utah. (Photo by SGM Charles J. Daniels, Army National Guard [ARNG] Senior Enlisted Advisor, US Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Oklahoma)

percent of the total FA. The training and equipping of these units is critical to the readiness of the Army's FA. More than 60 percent of ARNG FA formations are fielding the most current FA lethal and nonlethal weapon systems.

Meanwhile, ARNG FA Soldiers face the same challenges as their active duty counterparts, fulfilling nonstandard missions much like the active duty Soldier. Many of our ARNG FA NCOs and officers have lost core competency skills due to the numerous nonstandard missions.

As stated in the October–December 2008 issue of the *Fires Bulletin*, there are three main reasons we need to look at course redesign for our officer and NCO courses taught at the FA School and at the ARNG Regional Training Institutes (RTIs). Three issues driving course redesign are atrophy of FA skills, new educational demands for Soldiers and leaders, and emerging doctrine for the Era of Persistent Conflict.

This is a challenging, yet exciting time to be Field Artillerymen as we see the "Return of the King" unfolding before us. The transformation of our institutional courses and educational paradigms are the centerpieces of the Return of the King, a supporting document to the

FACP, and with 50 percent of the FA force being in the ARNG, it is imperative to look at FA course redesign for the ARNG officer and NCO.

Course Redesigns. The ARNG NCOs and officers face tremendous challenges in balancing the requirements of civilian jobs, civilian educations, military jobs, military educations and families. The difficulty in balancing these tasks became a reality recently when MG Vangiel was conducting his seminar with one Pre-Command Course (PCC) that had a large percentage of ARNG officers in attendance. The future battalion commanders expressed their concerns with the expansion of the length of Officer Education System (OES) and NCO Education System (NCOES) courses and, in particular, the expansion of the resident FA Captain's Career Course (FACCC).

MG Vangiel understands the effect of lengthening courses on our ARNG officers and NCOs. He told the ARNG PCC students to develop several courses of actions (COAs) that would be beneficial for the ARNG FA captain. The general briefed the resulting COAs to the ARNG FA leadership at the last FA Advisory Committee, and they have been used as the cornerstone for the development of the way ahead on the FACCC and RC FACCC.



FACCC Options. The ARNG FA officer has two options to complete his FACCC education requirement. The majority of the ARNG officers choose the RC FACCC option to fulfill this education requirement, due to the lack of funds from their states to attend the resident FACCC and, in a lot of the cases, the inability to take six months of vacation from their civilian jobs. The current resident FACCC taught at Fort Sill is a 24-week course. Per recent guidance from the Commanding General (CG) of the USA Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) General Martin E. Dempsey, the active duty FACCC is being revised, and we will see the new results of that revision soon. Per MG Vangelj's guidance, the ARNG leadership at Fort Sill will incorporate a TDY option for ARNG officers in the new FACCC residence course construct. The second option for ARNG officers is the newly redesigned five-phase RC FACCC. Figure 1 (on Page 32) shows the FACCC options and expectations.

ARNG RTIs. A great asset for the ARNG is the RTIs. Like other branches, FA has one subject matter expert regiment under the Total Army School System (SME TASS) for FA with five supporting FA battalions and numerous training batteries throughout the continental US (CONUS). Currently, all RTIs are chartered to conduct primarily individual training, but there is tremendous potential for RTIs to train the entire force and/or to help in the FA Reset mission.

As an example, the FA SME Regiment from the Wisconsin ARNG (WIARNG) has helped the NCO Academy at Fort Sill with several SME instructors for Reset mobile training teams (MTTs) with personnel accompanying the Fort Sill team on the road. Additionally, more active duty Soldiers now are using the RTIs, taking advantage of ARNG facilities and SMEs for military occupational specialty training (MOS-T) reclassification throughout CONUS.

To ensure that RTIs can conduct their MOS-T mission and can explore their future potential fully, it is essential to field the RTIs with the most current lethal and nonlethal FA systems—including M109A6 Paladins with the Paladin Digital Fire Control System (PDFCS), M777A2 howitzers with the latest software, M119A2 howitzers, Meteorological Measuring Set-Profiler (MMS-P), Improved Position and Azimuth Determining System (IPADS), Fire Support Command, Control and Communications (FSC³),

Lightweight Countermortar Radar (LCMR) and other radar. Ideally the RTIs must receive the latest simulations—virtual and immersive trainers—to operate at peak effectiveness.

In an effort to standardize training certification, the five FA RTI battalions and their supporting training batteries are all accredited by the Quality Assurance Office at Fort Sill, while continuing to support new initiatives such as augmenting MTTs, pursuing aggressive distance learning courses and implementing innovative, multiphase courses to include MOS-T and the new Advanced Leader's Course (ALC) and Senior Leader's Course (SLC). The ARNG RTIs provide active duty installations with many new training initiatives, such as the model for the Warrior Leader Course and implementing a capstone, live-fire exercise, incorporating MOS 13B Cannon Crewmembers, 13D Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems Specialists, and 13F Fire Support Specialists from the 10 to 30 levels (as evidenced by the recent capstone event conducted by the Utah ARNG recently at Camp Williams, Utah).

The RTI Charter. The RTI charter encompasses the following programs.

TASS. The Total Army School System (TASS) is a composite school system comprised of the active Army, ARNG and US Army Reserve institutional training systems. TASS, through the Army's training proponents, provides standard training courses to America's Army, focusing on three main points of effort—standards, efficiencies and resources. TASS is composed of fully accredited and integrated active Army, ARNG and USAR schools that provide standard resident and non-resident distance learning institutional training and education for the Army. TASS training battalions are arranged in regions and functionally aligned with the training proponents.

The Army Training System (TATS) Course. TATS is a course designed to train any MOS or area of consideration (AOC) skill level—or language identifier code (LIC), special qualification identifier (SQI) or additional skill identifier (ASI)—within the Army. The course ensures standardization by training all course-critical tasks to task-performance standard, although it may be trained at different sites and may involve the use of different media or methods to train the various phases, modules or lessons.

With the close coordination of Human Resources Command, branch managers and the RTIs, more active duty Soldiers

can be scheduled into open seats to fulfill their additional training needs. In addition, on a limited basis, RTI instructors, when available, can continue to augment any type of active duty MTT or Reset training teams from the Fires CoE, as they are doing now.

Other Initiatives. Two major Armywide initiatives are presently in the staffing and analysis phase. They are the Army Training and Leader Development Strategy (ATLDS) and the One Army School System (OASS) Feasibility Analysis.

The way forward for ATLDS, the first initiative, is "based on the initial effort approved by the Vice Chief of Staff during Army Campaign Plan, Decision Point 104, in August 2007, and reflects and expands upon the Chief of Staff's intent recently promulgated in the Army Training and Leader Development Guidance in August 2008. This strategy sends the clear message that the Army will not return to the old way of training and that it will demand innovation and change as it adapts unit training and leader development in the years ahead. As we adapt the institution, training and leader development will be different.

"The strategy provides specific direction to help the Army restore balance and emerge from a challenging environment driven by the effects of persistent conflict, Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN), doctrinal changes and modular conversion, with an agile, disciplined Warrior Team that is dominant across the spectrum of 21st century conflict" (ATLDS, dated 8 December 2008).

The second initiative, OASS Feasibility Analysis, was directed by Headquarters, Department of the Army, to achieve several objectives. It must conduct a feasibility analysis of the proposal to nest all active and RC schools under a single Army command to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The major objective of this analysis is to adapt the current school system to achieve economies of scale, align school missions to the right organization, ensure consistent standards and improve resource management (OASS Feasibility Analysis brief, November 2008).

One of the major tenets of the OASS Feasibility Analysis is the concept of "centralized missioning" of the training load throughout the training force to gain the most efficiencies, regardless of component. Some of the key tenets of OASS are listed in Figure 2 (on page 32).

Warrant Officer (WO) Education. 131A FA Targeting Technician WO Ba-

sic Course (WOBC) is being reviewed still. A new 17-week TDY option being discussed for ARNG WOs, which might attract enough interest from future 131A WOs to raise the present fill-rate of less than 40 percent.

Issues still under discussion as this article goes to press include the following. Most ARNG WOs cannot take 33 weeks vacation from their civilian jobs to attend the WOBC resident course. More ARNG WOs may be able to attend the new, revised 25-week WOBC resident course. A newly designed 17-week, TDY-option WOBC resident course has been designed and might be tested in a pilot course soon to both ARNG and active duty WOs. The

existing four-phase RC WOBC course has many challenges to graduating, capable, battle-ready 131As who are needed in theater. Regardless of the options being examined, there will be no relaxation of desired outcomes and standards.

NCOES Redesign. Much like the ARNG FA officers and warrant officers, the ARNG FA NCOs have two options to pursue when furthering their military education. They can take the resident courses at Fort Sill or the RC option at one of the RTIs. Many of the Basic NCO Courses and Advanced NCO Courses (soon to be ALC and SLC, respectively) are taught at the five FA RTI battalions or 10 RTI batteries. The majority of our

NCOs further their education by way of the RTIs. These courses must achieve the same standards as the active duty Army courses taught at Fort Sill, but in many cases are of shorter length due to the RTIs' conducting training on weekends and extending the length of instruction days. See Figure 3 (on Page 34) for the proposed redesign of the FA NCOES.

The initial efforts to revamp NCOES courses began with the revision of programs of instruction (POIs) to increase and add critical tasks that better reset and enhance NCO core skill sets for ANCOC and BNCOC, while simultaneously transforming these courses to the TRADOC-directed ALC and SLC.

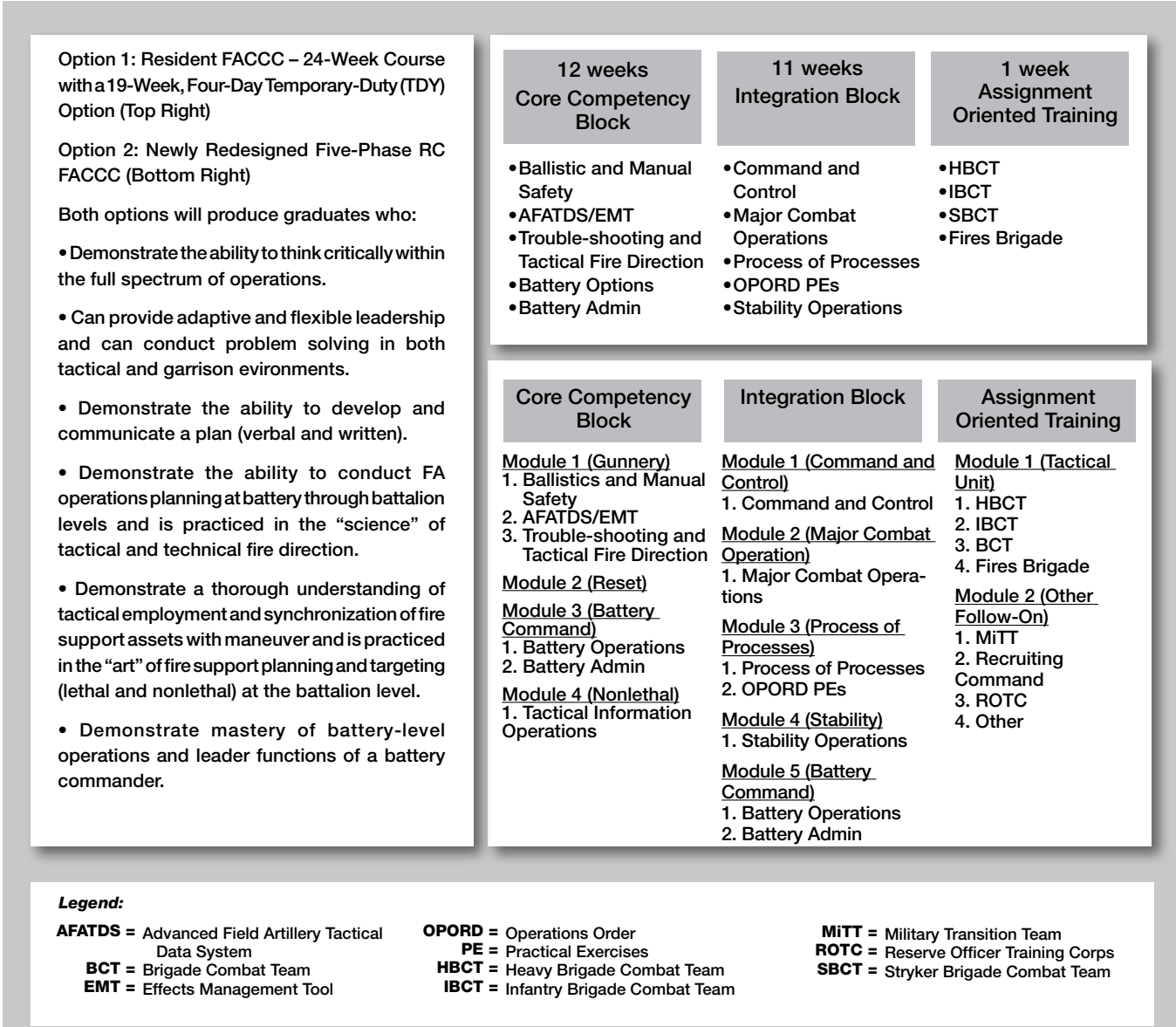


Figure 1: FA Captain's Career Course (FACCC) Template. USAFAS presently is conducting analysis to determine the way forward to follow MG Vangjel's guidance to offer the Reserve Component (RC)/Army National Guard (ARNG) FA officer two options for the FACCC, one of them being a TDY option.

Simultaneously, to meet the TRADOC CG's vision of "train ahead," ALC/SLC is the concept of training NCOs for the next level, at the grade lower in NCOES, to include selected 35 hours of first sergeant tasks to be incorporated. Any POI revision to the current TRADOC-prescribed 13-month maximum timeline requires approval from both the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and TRADOC.

Functional Area Courses. Currently in Operation Iraqi Freedom, approximately 90 percent of targeting effects are directed at nonlethal targets. In Operation Enduring Freedom, the number is approximately 50 percent nonlethal targets throughout Afghanistan. This has increased the demanded skill sets of FA officers and enlisted Soldiers dramatically.

The Fires CoE aggressively leaned forward and, in many cases using internal "out of hide" assets, created several new functional courses almost "from scratch" to give FA officers and NCOs the prerequisite skill sets and capabilities demanded by commanders in combat operations. Below is an overview of the purpose and focus of the following new FA functional area courses: Tactical Information Operations Course (TIOC), Army Operational Electronic Warfare (EW) Course, Fire Support Coordinator (FSCOORD) Course, Joint Fires Observer (JFO) Course and Joint Fires and Effects Course (JOFEC).

TIOC. TIOC is designed to prepare brigade or battalion staff members to act as part of an IO working group/IO cell. This course focuses on the importance of IO in tactical operations and employment of IO assets as a member of IO cell. It trains the Functional Area 30 to prepare an IO annex, IO estimate, target synchronization matrix and to conduct a targeting brief for brigade and below elements. Each graduate of the TIOC is awarded the P4 additional skill identifier (ASI).

Army Operational EW Course. The EW Course provides a working foundation of operational level EW at the brigade and higher levels. It focuses on EW fundamentals, integrating EW into the Military Decision-Making Process and targeting process, executing and assessing EW and understanding and applying the EW order of battle. The students participate in scenario-based exercises to apply EW knowledge at brigade and higher levels. Graduates of this course earn the ASI of 1J.

FSCOORD Course. The FSCOORD Course enhances the training of FSCOORDs at brigade combat team (BCT)

level to employ full spectrum and joint fires more effectively and efficiently. The training focuses on the integration of full-spectrum lethal and nonlethal fires, FSCOORD joint targeting, Army operational EW instruction (electronic attack), IO and working an exportable or MTT package. The students participate in video-conferences with experienced FSCOORDS in theater and ground-fight-focused practical exercises using the Joint Fires and Effects Simulator.

JFO Course. The JFO Course provides proper training for personnel to access a wide variety of joint fires. Graduates are recognized by services worldwide as capable of providing targeting data in a timely, efficient and safe manner. With this skill, JFOs can access joint fires even when a joint terminal attack controller (JTAC) is not on scene. The course focuses on advanced surface-to-surface fires, naval surface-to-surface fires, AC-130 calls for fire, day and night close-air-support tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP), laser- and coordinate-dependent weapons TTP, close combat attack and Precision Strike Suite-Special Operations Forces software.

JOFEC. JOFEC teaches the processes to apply and integrate joint lethal and nonlethal fires and effects as well as to teach the joint targeting process and how the joint fires and effects system operates. This prepares students to function effectively at the joint operational level through the full spectrum of military

operations and is reinforced by practical exercises that focus on applying the principles of joint lethal and nonlethal fires and effects.

The RTIs provide assistance with instruction in some of these functional courses as well as including active duty Soldiers in their instructions. The Vermont RTI teaches the TIOC, including awarding the ASI.

Ongoing coordination between the Joint and Combined Integration Directorate (JACI), the Fires CoE and the WIARNG RTI could result in a pilot JFO course taught at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Present discussions would have the WIARNG provide the Fort Sill-certified 13F instructors and facilities; the Illinois ARNG provide the pilots; and JACI augment the instructors during this endeavor. The Senior ARNG Advisor office at Fort Sill is working to coordinate among the different joint and multiservice agencies to make this course a reality and to gain ARNG G3 concurrence for this and other innovative paths forward.

Joint Fires University (JFU). The JFU vision is to be the leader in providing education, training and development of experts in the art and science of lethal and nonlethal fires, producing Soldiers, leaders and units that enable the maneuver commander to dominate fire support operations utilizing Fires.

JFU Impacts ARNG. Lifelong learning programs and reachback capabilities can serve the individual RC Soldier and RTI campuses. RTIs will be considered

- Develops the "total Army training load" and mission against the "total Army training capacity."
- Army Program for Individual Training (ARPRINT) remains the Army's training-mission document.
- Enables greater synchronization across components in determining training capacity to leverage available and most efficient training venues.
- Requires the same standards of training quality and accreditation across components.
- Requires Headquarters, Department of the Army, authority to assign Soldiers to schools regardless of component.
- Requires components to execute training in accordance with Army priorities.
- Requires full active Army participation in the Training Coordination Council Workshop process before the Structured Manning Decision Review (SMDR).
- Resources *must* follow mission assignment.

Figure 2: Some of the key tenets of the One Army School System (OASS) Feasibility Analysis brief, November 2008

Existing				Transformation				Net Change	
Course Title	AD Time	RC Hours	RC Phases	Course Title	AD Time	RC Hours	RC Phases	AD Time	RC Hours
FA Cannon Section Chief BNCOC	3 weeks, 3 days	174	1 ADT	13B ALC	5 weeks	225	1 IDT, 1 ADT	1 week, 4 days	51
FA Platoon Sergeant ANCOC	4 weeks, 1 day	197	1 ADT	13B SLC	7 weeks	303	1 IDT, 2 ADT	2 weeks, 6 days	106
FA Tactical Data Systems Specialist BNCOC	6 weeks, 1 day	257	1 IDT, 1 ADT	13D ALC	6 weeks, 2 days	265	1 IDT, 1 ADT	1 day	8
FA Tactical Data Systems Specialist ANCOC	3 weeks, 2 days	168	1 ADT	13D SLC	6 weeks, 1 day	235	1 IDT, 1 ADT	2 weeks, 6 days	67
Fire Support Sergeant BNCOC	3 weeks, 3 days	183	1 IDT, 1 ADT	13F ALC	5 weeks, 4 days	232	1 IDT, 1 ADT	2 weeks, 1 day	49
Fire Support Sergeant ANCOC	4 weeks, 2 days	203	1 IDT, 1 ADT	13F SLC	8 weeks	320	1 IDT, 2 ADT	3 weeks, 5 days	117
MLRS Section Chief BNCOC	3 weeks	156	1 ADT	13M ALC	4 weeks	192	1 IDT, 1 ADT	1 week	36
MLRS Platoon Sergeant ANCOC	1 week, 3 days	132	1 ADT	13M SLC	4 weeks, 5 days	223	1 IDT, 1 ADT	3 weeks, 2 days	91
MLRS Operations/Fire Direction Section Chief BNCOC	2 weeks, 4 days	147	1 ADT	13P ALC	3 weeks	155	1 IDT, 1 ADT	3 days	8
MLRS Operations/Fire Direction Senior Sergeant ANCOC	2 weeks	128	1 ADT	13P SLC	4 weeks, 1 day	195	1 IDT, 1 ADT	2 weeks, 1 day	67
FA Radar Section Chief BNCOC	4 weeks, 1 day	201	1 IDT, 1 ADT	13R ALC	7 weeks	280	1 IDT, 2 ADT	2 weeks, 6 days	79
FA Senior Radar/Targeting Sergeant ANCOC	5 weeks, 4 days	253	1 IDT, 1 ADT	13R SLC	8 weeks	320	1 IDT, 2 ADT	2 weeks, 3 days	67
FA Surveyor Section Chief BNCOC	3 weeks, 4 days	182	1 IDT, 1 ADT	13S ALC	4 weeks	184	1 IDT, 1 ADT	3 days	2
FA Survey Senior Sergeant ANCOC	2 weeks	127	1 ADT	13S SLC	3 weeks, 4 days	194	1 IDT, 1 ADT	1 week, 4 days	67
FA Meteorological Section Sergeant BNCOC	2 weeks, 2 days	130	1 ADT	13W ALC	3 weeks	148	1 IDT, 1 ADT	5 days	18
FA Meteorological Section Leader ANCOC	1 week, 3 days	112	1 ADT	13W SLC	3 weeks, 3 days	181	1 IDT, 1 ADT	2 weeks	69

Legend:

AD = Active Duty	SLC = Senior Leader's Course
ADT = Active Duty for Training	Wks = Weeks
ALC = Advanced Leader's Course	13B = Cannon Crewmember
ANCOC = Advanced NCO Course	13D = FA Tactical Data Systems Specialist
BNCOC = Basic NCO Course	13F = Fire Support Specialist
FA = Field Artillery	13M = MLRS Specialist
Hrs = Hours	13P = MLRS Automated Data Systems Specialist
IDT = Individual Duty for Training	13R = FA Fire Finder Radar Operator
MLRS = Multiple-Launch Rocket System	13S = FA Surveyor
RC = Reserve Component	13W = FA Meteorological Crewmember

Figure 3: The FA NCO Education System Proposed Courses Expansion

satellite campuses of the JFU, which naturally will bring up further RTI command and control discussions. Instructors, professors and guest lecturers can do presentations at RTI campuses, virtually saving RC students travel time and money.

Classes and learning modules can be videotaped for use by the individual Soldier using distance learning at home or at his armory and for use by the RTIs during NCOES courses. Which electives and courses can be offered by distance learning (similar to online college courses) has not been decided yet, however once the JFU is stood up, it will further the educations of both active and RC Field Artillerymen.

Future JFU Impacts. The Fires CoE Senior ARNG Advisor is working with Doctrine and Training Directorate, Fires CoE, to develop concepts and ideas on how the JFU concept will enhance the education of our RC Soldiers.

The unmatched focus, drive, dedication and excellent performance by all ARNG officers, warrant officers, NCOs and Soldiers will allow us to conquer the challenges the FA community faces in reestablishing core competencies while continuing to support the current fight.

To do this, we must look at innovative, effective new training paradigms to train our ARNG FA Soldiers, such as re-emphasizing Field Artillerymen as the Army's integrators of both lethal and

nonlethal fires; developing exportable training and education programs and simulations, and exploring the concept of the Fires CoE JFU as the Army's FA proponent and soliciting the support of the NGB and RTIs.

As the Era of Persistent Conflict continues, the ARNG FA, the majority of the Army's Artillery force, must maintain its aggressive path forward to achieve the same relevant lethal and nonlethal integration skills, weapon platforms, doctrine and strategies, and training paradigms that our active Army comrades have adopted. We must maintain proficiencies in FA core competencies as well as master the new strategic skill sets emerging to combat the hybrid threat.

Colonel Robert W. Roshell, Field Artillery (FA), is the Deputy Assistant Commandant of the US Army Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Previously he was the Commander of the 45th Fires Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard (ARNG), in Enid. He has served as the Executive Officer of the 45th FA Brigade; and as Commander of the 1st Battalion, 158th FA (1-158 FA), Lawton, Oklahoma. He also has served as the Battalion S3, Battalion S4, a Battery Fire Direction Officer, a Battery Executive Officer and a Battery Commander for 1-171 FA in Altus, Oklahoma. He holds two master's degrees—one in school administration from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford and one in strategic studies from the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence M. Terranova, FA, is the Executive Officer for the Deputy Assistant Commandant, Army National Guard, US Army Field Artillery School (USAFAS), Fort Sill, Oklahoma. During this tenure, he served at the Afghanistan Counterinsurgency Academy on a Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) Tasker in Afghanistan, resuming his duties upon his return. He has served as Chief, New Equipment Training Division, for the Directorate of Training and Doctrine at USAFAS; and his training teams were instrumental in the operational testing and fielding of several key lethal and nonlethal weapons as well as providing sustainment to other key systems. He was the Assistant S3 for the 4th Brigade, 75th Division, and Commander for B Battery, 1st Battalion, 171st FA (B1-171 FA), as well as two platoons attached from A/1-171, all at Fort Sill. He holds a master's degree in management from Webster's University, St. Louis, Missouri.

The World Wide Air and Missile Defense Symposium: 5 to 6 May

“The End of an Era —A New Beginning.”

The 2009 World Wide Air and Missile Defense Symposium will be held at Soldier Hall, located in Hinman Hall, at Fort Bliss, Texas, from 5 to 6 May. The Symposium will celebrate 41 years of Air Defense Artillery at Fort Bliss, provide an overview of the Branch’s current operational status and explore where the Branch is headed.

Tuesday, 5 May, begins with briefings, encompassing the State of the Branch and Army Air and Missile Defense Command overviews. We will have a recognition ceremony to award honorees for their dedicated service to Air Defense at Fort Bliss. The afternoon of the 5th includes working groups for active duty military personnel to discuss the future challenges to Air Defense training. The day ends with a formal, black-tie banquet at the Centennial Club with live music and dancing.

The Symposium concludes the following afternoon, Wednesday, 6 May, with a formal casing ceremony of the Air Defense School Colors. The Symposium is open to all allied, retired, active



and Reserve Component Soldiers of the Army Air Defense Artillery, Field Artillery and the Air Defense Marine Detachment.

For all registration and Symposium information, please visit <https://www.bliss.army.mil/wwamds>. Any individuals wishing to attend who have not received an invitation may register on the website.

2009 Fire Support Seminar: 2 to 4 June

“Integrating Fires to Address Hybrid Threats —A 21st Century Challenge.”

The 2009 Fire Support Seminar will be held at the Reimer Conference Center in the Field Artillery School, Snow Hall, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, from 2 to 4 June. Topics of discussion will include air-ground integration; lethal and nonlethal fires;



An M119 howitzer lights up the desert sky as Redlegs provide fire support to their maneuver comrades. (Photo courtesy of the Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Oklahoma)

Field Artillery past, present and future; and all that has been going on with the Branch since the last seminar. In the context of the hybrid threat, we will address solutions to the challenges that face the Field Artillery in the 21st century. We also will have a transition of authority (TOA) from Major General Peter M. Vangelj to Brigadier General Ross Ridge as the Field Artillery School Commandant, and we will conduct the grand opening of the new Field Artillery Museum.

Monday, 1 June, will be a session for the battlefield coordination detachment (BCD) community including the BCD commanders and their deputies, key personnel from Department of the Army, Training and Doctrine Command, Combined Arms Command, the US Air Force, Joint and Combined Integration Directorate and Capabilities and Development Integration Directorate.

Invitees from the 1 June session may attend the seminar. Joint, allied, retired, active duty and Reserve Component senior leaders of the Army and Marine Corps Field Artillery will receive invitations via email.

Information about the seminar is available on the Fires Knowledge Network (FKN) Homepage in the Fires Center of Excellence Conference Schedule Center at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/130700> or at <http://www.mhli.org>.